

WOMAN'S POWER

Mrs. Blaine Holds the Destiny of the Republican Party in Her Hand.

SHE RULES HER LORD

And Platt, Clarkson and the Rest Had Best Bow Before Her.

THE SEX HAS GOVERNED FRANCE.

Influence of Madame De Maintenon and Madame De Pompadour.

LUCY WEBB HATS WORD ALWAYS WENT

(WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.)

The woman in the case of the Republican nomination for President, it appears, is Mrs. Blaine. If she consents to have James G. run again, he will not refuse to run favorably the impudent prayers of Clarkson, Quay, Platt, Fassett and the other bosses. Mrs. Blaine then, it will be seen, holds the keys of the kingdom.

Only through her influence, we are told, can the country be saved to the Republican party. Harrison cannot be re-elected, they say, unless the only woman who has been through Blaine, the popular idol, the magic of his name and his personal magnetism will draw all men unto him. In view of all these assurances and hopeful utterances, it is hardly likely that Mrs. Blaine will refuse to save the party and preserve the country from the Democracy. It is not to be supposed that she will not use her power to keep the Cleverlands, or the Campbells, or the Brices, or the Whitneys, or the Germans out of the White House. It is scarcely to be thought that she will forego the honors and prerogatives of the position of "first lady" with the additional satisfaction of having the Republican party tied to her apron strings by virtue of her supremacy over the President to be—if James G. gets there.

Not Make the Mistake Cleopatra Did.

Cleopatra lost Marc Antony the world. Mrs. Blaine will hardly be willing to lose the proud position of the Presidency for her husband if she holds any faith in his power to gain it. Through him she could rule the country and hold firmer sway for four years than Victoria herself. The stories concerning her influence and ambition are backed up by truth. She could set her feet—metaphorically speaking, of course—upon the necks of her enemies and bid them do as she pleased. She could set stumbling blocks in the paths of ambitious men and trample on the pretensions of the splitters and place hunters. With the spirit which she could exert with the aid of some woman who say mean things about her by snubbing them, frowning down their frivolous affections and marking her contempt of their small minds by her indifference. Women have ruled great nations before today. When the hope of wealth and honors depends upon a woman's favor and influence men are as ready to bow down to her as to the strong arm she may control.

A Woman Held All France.

Louis XIV., the grand monarch of France, was not without powerful enemies. He was absolute, but the woman behind his throne was Madame de Maintenon, who, by her infinite tact and agreeable manners, had become the real power in the government. State affairs were discussed in her room, and her advice was frequently asked for by the King with all his ministers around him. By her tact and sagacity, she contrived to control the affairs of the nation, to rule the court, and manage the King. So powerful was she that she made the King's will her own. Madame de Pompadour ruled France for Louis XV., who preferred amiable cooking, working tapestry, amusing himself with a school for his playthings, to boistering with the pleasures of the chase. She was a talented and gifted woman of her day. Her salon was frequented by the most eminent philosophers and men of letters. All who were ambitious men aspired to her beauty, obsequy and tact. The Queen had no influence whatever. She was dull, wisely pious, given to long prayers and melancholy reveries. Madame de Pompadour, on the contrary, was brilliant, entertained in an enchanting style, and had as her guests the witty, the wise, and the most intelligent of the French aristocracy. Her beauty, beauty and refinement, and all the high qualities of her mind, impressed upon the imagination of the King, that "though it had more influence upon the fate of nations, than the wisest policy of the ablest diplomatists of the world." To the careful study given by her to the tastes of the King is owing, says a recent writer, Madame de Pompadour's omnipotence in the affairs of France for over 20 years. But this woman, who had such control over the feeble mind of the King, and whose great talent for government was given to state affairs, had a taste for, and a comprehension of, great subjects. It is related that later in life when she had reached the conclusion that all is vanity and vexation of spirit, her physician was wont to remove the oppression of melancholy and cheer her spirits by discussing with her the teachings of political economy, particularly as to free trade in the advancement of the greatest power in France. In the course of her long career as Prime Minister, Madame de Pompadour established schools, and hospitals and manufacturing establishments. She was nominated the chief commander of the armies and all the high offices of state. She found admission to the honors of the French Academy for her literary efforts, and secured cardinal's robes and the honors of the papacy for her religious opinions, and when the great crisis in the affairs of France was reached she plainly showed that she did not understand the gravity of the situation. She is credited with the responsibility of the war with Germany, which desolated and humiliated the French nation and drove her family into exile. It is surely not to be admitted that

or made mustard; as my aim in writing it to make my instructions entirely practical to those who read it only that I have learned from actual experiments. I have found it the best to use mixed mustard—that which has been first slightly moistened and rubbed smooth with a little acid and then sufficient acid added to make it the consistency of a thick, smooth custard. Added thus to the mayonnaise it is far less likely to curdle it. If by ill luck such a calamity overtakes you set aside the bowl, begin with a fresh egg and oil, in a clean dish, and add the curdled sauce by degrees until the mixture is smooth and of the right consistency. This mayonnaise may be made into a red sauce by the addition of the pounded coral of a lobster, and should be in this form to complete the serving of a lobster salad.

You sometimes see salad receipts calling for tarragon vinegar. To make this, simply put a branch of tarragon in a wide-mouthed glass jar, fill the jar with vinegar and let it soak; it is preferable to using the tarragon itself in dressing salads.

A Nice Dressing for Lettuce.

Mash the yolk of a well-boiled egg—by well-boiled I mean one that has been boiled 10 to 15 minutes, thrown into cold water and shelled after thoroughly cooling—into half a teaspoonful of made mustard, a pinch of salt, a few tablespoonfuls of olive oil, a strain of lemon juice to make it sufficiently acid. Cut the white into bits and sprinkle over the lettuce, and pour the dressing over, mixing very lightly. It is quite impossible to give definite quantities exactly; tastes differ at various conditions.

Chicken salad is not perfect without a mayonnaise dressing, neither is lobster, nor, in fact, any of the heavier salads. Tomatoes are delicious when sliced, after having been in some time, with a mayonnaise, but as a rule this rich sauce should be reserved for fish and meat salads. A dressing should be made from green leaf salads and those containing most of them need only oil and acid, while the

WHAT WOMEN CAN DO.

Plans for the Building Set Apart for the Sex at the Big Fair.

MEN ONLY DID THE HEAVY WORK.

Fair Hands Unaided Will Complete It, Decorate It and Fill It.

SCHEME OF THE NOVEL EXHIBIT

(CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH.)

CHICAGO, May 27.—Barring the heavy work of construction as relates to wood and masonry, the Woman's building at the Columbian Exposition is a building for women, by women. It was designed by a woman, the decorative finish will be done by a woman, and the exhibit therein is to be that of women's handwork and women's brain work only. This exhibit will mark the first participation of women in a national enterprise of such importance, and will be a telling object lesson showing their progress in every country in the world during the century in which educational and other privileges have been granted them. Also, will it show the increased usefulness that has resulted from the enlargement of their opportunities.

In no other way could the world be given an adequate idea of the extent and value of what is being and has been done by women in the arts, sciences and industries, and in no other way could the bread winners, fighting unaided the battle of life, learn of the

many avenues of employment that are constantly being opened to women, and in which of these their work will be of the most distinct value by reason of their natural aptitudes, scientific and artistic temperaments and individual tastes.

All sentiment strictly barred. With this end in view the women of all countries have been invited to participate in this great exhibit of woman's work. Exhibits to this building will be admitted only upon invitation, which will be considered equivalent of a prize. Sentimental sympathy for women is not to cause the exhibition to be a mere display of the work of the best of the world, but to be a work of auxiliary committees to find these women workers, and to recommend to the Board of Lady Managers, who fully appreciate the golden opportunity now in their hands, to exhibit the work of these women's building as shall clear away all existing misconceptions as to the value of women's industries and their inventions, both past and present. The fact will be established that while women have been since the beginning of time largely occupied as home makers, and have not been trained for the more exacting and exacting occupations, yet their successes in those directions have been important, but thoroughly unappreciated.

What Primities Women Found Out.

While man, the protector, was engaged in fighting or the chase, woman constructed the rude semblance of a home. She dressed and cooked the game and later ground the grain between stones, prepared it for bread. She cured and dressed the skins of animals and fashioned them, awkwardly, of course, into garments. Growing out of necessity, she learned to spin, to weave and to twist fibers of plants into thread. Next she invented the shuttle used in weaving textile fabrics in which were often mingled feathers, wool and down, both past and present. The fact will be established that while women have been since the beginning of time largely occupied as home makers, and have not been trained for the more exacting and exacting occupations, yet their successes in those directions have been important, but thoroughly unappreciated.

It will be shown also by this exhibit that woman was the first potter; that with her hands she made the clay into jars and other utensils for domestic purposes, drying them in the sun. She also originated basket-making, and these things will be shown in such an infinite variety of beautiful forms, colors and designs, that modern productions will be put to shame.

The work of women through classic and medieval times will be illustrated by illuminated manuscripts, books of poetry, romance and history, textile fabrics, elaborate embroideries and drawn work, the various laces and tapestries which have been produced in every country and epoch. The old Bayeux tapestry, made by Matilda, of Flanders, will be either exhibited in the original or reproduced. I am sure it will be a revelation to many women to learn that these tapestries are the best that have ever been made in the world. It is the work of the Conqueror and that they are constantly referred to by every authority treating of the military service, army appointments, customs and manners of the day.

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But about the beautiful building that is to be the showcase of woman's capabilities, in regard to which no picture can give you the idea, and which has been under way for only a few days to have been done by a girl of 28 years, but one that would do credit to any man in the profession. But to me even the building seems womanly. Miss Hayden seems to have done the public, except for the distinction of line and ornament, its grace of symmetry, its pretty proportions and nest course cause it to differ from the other buildings, which are of more robust cast, just as the delicate apparel and high-bred grace of a woman differ from the more muscular and sterner proportions of a man.

Italian remains the style of the moderns in Europe, is the style represented in this building. It is said by those who know that it is done with force and vigor, and it certainly calls for a large number of hands and decorations that its strength is in round arches, which are Roman; its grace, in the pillars, which are Italian; while its outer decorations are of Moorish. Mrs. Palmer is abroad at present to secure, if possible, a woman artist to decorate the interior of this Woman's building. Although our women are busy painting, carving and decorating, and although America has furnished some excellent woman painters, who have not only appeared to advantage in this country, but have been recognized in the Paris Salon, yet it seems we have no one who can be called a mural or architectural decorator. Madam Alma Tadema and Louise Jolyntz will have the honor of declining or accepting Mrs. Palmer's proposition to come over and put the finishing touches to the structure.

That such a woman should be so good, also, while on this mission, Mrs. Palmer will secure the consent of the German Gov-

DEADLY SEWER GAS.

The Fear of It Having an Influence on the Furniture of Homes.

MODERN FAD FOR WILD FLOWERS.

A Progressive Conversation Party a New Thing for Society.

MARGARET H. WELCH'S FRESH GOSSIP

(WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.)

The sanitation of houses is a question which appeals to every house mother. Plumbing, which the average woman knows very little about, is something she is always questioning and investigating, and sewer gas is a gross mystery she dreads more than smallpox. Many fine houses are being built now with the plumbing centered in an isolated part of the house, and the needs of the family supplied with water carried by hand from that point; still more are carefully planned so that every toilet room shall open directly to the outside air and close with light doors, not divided by partitions from the sleeping rooms. One occasionally hears of a house built with no connection with the public sewer main, an individual system of sewage being maintained. The increased offering of washstands, with all styles of furniture suits, is cheap and costly, perhaps the most pregnant indication of the trend of public opinion in the matter.

With this view of the case, thus emphasized it is some consolation to those of us who must live in rented houses with obdurate landlords who won't take out plumbing at the whim of each succeeding tenant to recall that the most eminent authorities differ as to the deadly power of sewer gas.

A parlor visitor is as everyone knows a thing that has a distinct cause to be. While the world may not possess any more dust than formerly it is certain that there are more surfaces to place it in evidence, and eternal dustings alone the price of even average cleanliness. The little bag or basket tied by ribbon to the easel, a grass palm leaf with a pocket attached, the holders for the old silk handkerchiefs than which there is no better duster for polished furniture. One young woman who scorns "trumpery" as she calls it, keeps her dusters in a lovely linen vase that stands on a cabinet. Wherever it is kept, however, it may be used as salted almonds are served, in every pane.

In this connection, the idea of a distracted housekeeper who found her baluster rails always grimy, she said, is worth noting. She made a couple of pouches of rich brocade and hung one just behind the newel post of stairs and the other on the landing where the rail fitted against the wall. Each holds its duster, and "every time," she says "I or my maid go up or down we take one and use it on the hand rail, dropping it in the bag at the other end. By this means the dusting goes on forever."

A feature of wedding gowns at the moment is the high straight close collar, exactly like one inclosing a tailor-made bodice. This more than any other adjunct of the wedding dress contributes an air of severity and dignity that is rather trying to many brides.

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Dr. William Hammond does not feel at all certain that sewer gas is poisonous, and cites in evidence the notoriously robust health which sewer rats enjoy. Why should they thrive in a place surcharged with a poisonous fume? Men, too, employed to work in sewers do not appear more liable to illness than those who do not. Another authority declares that "damp cellars are more fatal than defective plumbing"—all of which uncertainty is not without a measure of solace to the great majority who are trying to fight an ambiguous and invisible foe.

A dressing table daintily draped and lace trimmed imparts an indescribable touch of prettiness to a woman's room. The one shown has one or two novelties which give it value as a model. The slightly recessed mirror is a concession to the prevailing Louis Quinze effect and the small circular table around which the material is arranged in full pleats that project above and a little out is a change from the usual manner of draping. The frame of the mirror may be made by a carpenter, painted, gilded or covered with the material with which the table is draped; afterward a piece of mirror glass fitted in. A straight support goes from the floor to the circular top in the middle back of the table. In arranging the drape the cretonne or muslin is drawn away and fastened at the tops.

The caprices of modern culture certainly take on some very delightful phases. One of these is the study of wild flower lore which, in the rush of the swirling times, might easily become a lost art. States Island and Long Island have their Arbutus clubs, whose mission is explained by their name, and whose suburbs are equally active in organizations intended to develop a fondness for and knowledge of the floral treasures of wood and field. Very recently the Storm King Club gave a brilliant social function at Cornwall on the Hudson largely attended by New York fashionables, which was a wild flower reception, the chambers being lined and banked with the many varieties of wild flowers to be found in the valleys and slopes of famous old Storm King.

The pretty tea cozies which mildly affects on her S-lock table, in cone and miter shapes, have got to go. Tea connoisseurs

say that they insure the flavor of the beverage in not permitting prompt evaporation of certain deleterious vapors. Truly we put a fine point upon everything in these days.

A progressive conversation party is a fresh device by which entertainers seek to prevent their guests from sinking to the depths of plain conversation. The chairs are arranged through the rooms in conversation paths. On entering each guest selects a numbered card from a basket in the hall, the women picking from one basket, the men from another. Every woman takes one of the pair of chairs, and the man who held a corresponding number becomes her companion for the opening tete-tete, whose subject is duly announced when all are ready. Every three minutes a bell sounds, and the man moves on to the next woman, the subject is changed, and the tongue wag again or "eyes discourse most eloquent."

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The caprices of modern culture certainly take on some very delightful phases. One of these is the study of wild flower lore which, in the rush of the swirling times, might easily become a lost art. States Island and Long Island have their Arbutus clubs, whose mission is explained by their name, and whose suburbs are equally active in organizations intended to develop a fondness for and knowledge of the floral treasures of wood and field. Very recently the Storm King Club gave a brilliant social function at Cornwall on the Hudson largely attended by New York fashionables, which was a wild flower reception, the chambers being lined and banked with the many varieties of wild flowers to be found in the valleys and slopes of famous old Storm King.

At a late London wedding a younger sister of the bride gave her away—in defiance of other relatives. One more instance of the way women are stepping into men's shoes. MARGARET H. WELCH.

It is getting to be very much in vogue to have no wedding reception immediately after the ceremony. Instead, the bride's mother issues cards for one or two "home" days about a fortnight later, at which the bride and groom receive with her. This will strike many as a very sensible innovation.

Gold, silver, wood, tin and rice-covered shoes with high French heels and Spanish arch instep are used as flower holders for wedding feasts, the silver and rice-covered ones being for the original celebration, the others for its succeeding prototypes. The rice is gracefully filled with flowers and grasses.

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